

Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

Module Title: Teaching Critical Thinking

Instructor:

Residency Date: August 2018

Module Description:

The focus of the module is upon the role of the educator in teaching reflective critical thinking to social work students. Critical thinking is informed by an awareness of broad social, economic and cultural relationships as well as the particularities of interpersonal relationships. Critical reflection is often based in the work of Donald Schon and/or Paulo Freire. Emphasis in this module is given to the special nature of critical reflective social work knowledge which focuses on the interplay between social context and the self.

During the module we will reflect upon the following questions: What are educators' expectations with respect student ability to analyze concepts related to practice? What are educators' expectations of students with respect to personal and social change? How do we nurture significant critical thinking leading to change? What does critical thinking look like in an image-saturated, technologically driven culture? How are we transformed as educators through classroom teaching?

Module Objectives:

1. Consider the subjective role of the educator in teaching critical thinking.
2. Discuss the power dynamics in the classroom when encouraging critical thought.
3. Develop an understanding of critical approaches to reflective practice and education.
4. Engage in critical thinking about our own teaching.

Required Readings:

Moffatt, K. (under review) Chapter Three: Reflective social work practice: The self and the social. In *Precarious Social Work: Reflective Practice in Education* (working title). New York: Columbia University Press.

Moffatt, K. (under review) Chapter Four: Reflective practice as a form of consciousness. In *Precarious Social Work: Reflective Practice in Education*. (working title). New York: Columbia University Press.

Recommended Readings:

Fook J, & Askeland G. 2007. Challenges of critical reflection, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained," *Social Work Education* 26(5), 520-533.

Kristeva J. 2002. *Revolt, she said: An interview by Philippe Petit*. B. O'Keeffe (Trans.) S. Lotringer (Ed.) New York : Semiotexte Foreign Agents Series.

Martinez-Brawley E. 2001. Searching again and again. Inclusion, heterogeneity and social work research, *The British Journal of Social Work* 31(2), 271-285.